

ON THE DEATH OF SERGEANT  
MICHAEL VAUGHAN

**HON. DARLENE HOOLEY**

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 7, 2007*

Ms. HOOLEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the sacrifice and honor the loss of SGT Michael Vaughan. Answering the call of service, Michael enlisted in the U.S. Army while still completing studies at Taft High School. Unlike his peers, he spent his post-graduation summer learning the profession of arms. After boot camp and advanced training, Michael Vaughan worked hard to live up to the standards of the paratroopers.

Just a few weeks ago, Sergeant Vaughan and eight other paratroopers with the famed 82nd Airborne were killed when a suicide bomber attacked their compound in Sadah, Iraq. These brave paratroopers were preparing for another patrol to keep the civilians in that small town safe from the emerging violence.

Today, the community of Otis and all of Lincoln County, Oregon mourns the passing of Michael. He was a good-natured young man that people knew and loved, the kind of son parents looked to as an example of sincerity, earnestness, and mostly—of service. Though he longed for the days when his uniform would hang in the closet, Sergeant Vaughan wanted to serve his country before beginning the rest of his life. Like his father and grandfather before him, he knew that freedom is fragile and that someone, somewhere, must stand the post on the frontier. Sergeant Michael Vaughan is an example for us all. In his all too brief twenty years upon this planet, he established a legacy that cannot—and must not—be forgotten.

As Memorial Day nears, I ask each of us to remember the life and purpose of those that have given their last full measure so that we could bask in the warmth of life and liberty. I ask each of us to look inside ourselves and to ask if we are doing everything we can do to help these brave men and women. And I ask each of us to personally commit to seeking the best answers for the problems we face and to approach these challenges with the same dedication to duty, the same selflessness that Michael Vaughan and his comrades in arms exemplified. Let us begin anew.

TO REAUTHORIZE THE TROPICAL  
FOREST CONSERVATION ACT  
AND EXPAND THE PROGRAM TO  
INCLUDE THE CONSERVATION OF  
ALL FORESTS AND CORAL  
REEFS AND ASSOCIATED COAST-  
AL MARINE RESOURCES

**HON. MARK STEVEN KIRK**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 7, 2007*

Mr. KIRK. Madam Speaker, today I introduce a bill to reauthorize and expand Rob Portman's landmark legislation, the Tropical Forest Conservation Act. This reauthorization will help developing countries reduce foreign debt and provide comprehensive environmental preservation programs to protect forests and endangered marine habitats around the world.

Since enacted in 1998, Tropical Forest Conservation Act programs have generated a total of \$135 million over 10 to 25 years to help conserve 50 million acres of tropical forests in Asia, the Caribbean, Central and South America. But the rate of deforestation continues to accelerate across the globe in all types of forests.

Similarly alarming is the rapid rate of coral reef and coastal exploitation. The burden of foreign debt falls especially hard on the smallest of nations, such as island nations in the Caribbean and Pacific. With few natural resources, these nations often resort to harvesting or otherwise exploiting coral reefs and other marine habitats to earn hard currency to service foreign debt. According to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, 60 percent of the world's coral reefs may be destroyed by the year 2050 if the present rate of destruction continues.

The Forest and Coral Conservation Act will credit qualified developing nations for each dollar spent on a comprehensive reef preservation or management program designed to protect these unique ecosystems from degradation. This legislation will make available resources for environmental stewardship that would otherwise be of the lowest priority in a developing country. It will reduce debt by investing locally in programs that will strengthen indigenous economies by creating long-term management policies that will preserve the natural resources upon which local commerce is based.

Madam Speaker, this legislation has enormous consequences for the existence of critical ecosystems, the health of our planet, and the livelihoods of millions of people across the globe. I am proud to introduce the Forest and Coral Conservation Act, which will help preserve the world's most precious natural resources.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO JULIE  
WILBUR

**HON. JON C. PORTER**

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 7, 2007*

Mr. PORTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Julie Wilbur, a Registered Nurse who has distinguished herself as an outstanding and devoted professional in her field.

Julie Wilbur is a nurse at Spring Valley Hospital. She has over 20 years of nursing experience and she presently serves as the Charge Nurse of General Medicine and Surgery. Julie has a diverse knowledge of her subject area and is efficient and dependable. Julie has participated in a number of professional development training courses such as the Constructive Criticism Communication Course and Epidural Pain Management Course. Julie is also active as a member in the Academy Med-Surgical Nurses Chapter #413 and as a committee member of the Shared Governance Spring Valley Hospital Coordinating Council.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor Julie Wilbur. Over her 20 years in the nursing field, she has greatly enriched countless lives. I commend her hard work, dedication and commitment as a health care provider to the residents of Southern Nevada.

TRIBUTE TO THE CHATTANOOGA  
BAR ASSOCIATION

**HON. ZACH WAMP**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 7, 2007*

Mr. WAMP. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the works of the Chattanooga Bar Association in my hometown of Chattanooga, Tennessee, and join them in celebrating the CBA's upcoming Law Day Luncheon on May 9, 2007. Law Day USA is set aside each year on May 1st by a joint resolution of Congress and Presidential proclamation as an occasion for honoring the place of law in our lives. It is not a national holiday, nor is it a "lawyer's day." Instead, Law Day is an occasion for all Americans to learn more about our law, our legal system, and our rights. It is also a day to reflect on our legal heritage, our responsibilities as citizens, and the principles of our democratic government. Law Day has been a vital part of American life for several generations. Law Day has celebrated our great heritage of liberty, justice and equality under law since it was first proclaimed in 1958 by President Eisenhower. Law Day gives us the opportunity to reflect on how the law protects and guides America's quest for equal justice and equal opportunity, just as it permits us to express our opinions, select our leaders, worship where we choose, and pursue our livelihood. Thanks to the freedoms guaranteed by our Constitution, and protected by our laws and courts, we American have the opportunity—unmatched anywhere in the world—to develop our capabilities to the fullest.

This year, on May 9th, the Chattanooga Bar Association will honor the legal community of Chattanooga, Tennessee, with their annual Law Day Luncheon. The theme of this year's Law Day USA is "Liberty Under Law: Empowering Youth, Assuring Democracy." The featured speaker is Bill Curry. Mr. Curry is an ESPN analyst, a legendary college/pro football coach, and the Executive Director of The Baylor School's Leadership Baylor Program. Curry says he has "been smitten" with the study of leadership since he was a young child. "I was one of those hyperaggressive boys who had too much energy and my teachers had to find ways to keep me occupied," said Curry. He recalled one teacher in particular who propped him in a corner next to a shelf loaded with biographies of U.S. historical figures and he proceeded to soak up the stories of George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Lou Gehrig and many others. "I was absorbed with study of leadership, and I decided I wanted to find out what made these people tick. How could Helen Keller do what she did? What could I do to be an effective leader myself? Leadership has been a passion almost as long as I can remember," said Curry.

During the luncheon, the Chattanooga Bar Association will honor Paul Neely with the 2007 "Liberty Bell Award." This award, given to a person who is not in the legal profession, is one of the Chattanooga Bar Association's highest honors. The purpose of the "Liberty Bell Award" is to recognize community service that has strengthened the American system of freedom under law. In selecting the recipient of this award, the Chattanooga Bar Association considers activities which (1) promote a better understanding of our Constitution and

the Bill of Rights; (2) encourage a greater respect for the law and the courts; (3) stimulate a deeper sense of individual responsibility so that citizens recognize their duties as well as their rights; (4) contribute to the effective functioning of our institution of governments; and (5) foster a better understanding and appreciation of the rule of law. I ask all Members of the House of Representatives to join me in congratulating Paul Neely for his contributions to the Chattanooga community.

The winners of the Law Day Essay Contest, which is open to all Hamilton County, private, and home school students, grades 9–12 are in Division 1—1st place winning a \$1,000 college scholarship is Christine Marie Leavens of Red Bank High School. The 2nd place winner is Rachael Stewart of Ooltewah High School, and 3rd place winner is William Andrew Whitener of Ooltewah High School.

In Division 2 of the Law Day Essay Contest—1st place winning a \$1,000 college scholarship is Taylor Dickinson of Girls Preparatory School; 2nd place winner is Radhika Patel of Baylor School; and receiving 3rd place is John D. Whitehurst of McCallie School.

The Law Day Poetry Contest is open to all sixth, seventh, and eighth graders of the same demographics. Winning 1st place is Margaret M. Copley; 2nd place winner is Mary Woodruff Griffin; and 3rd place is Parker Mallchok, all of Girls Preparatory School.

The Law Day Visual Arts contest is open to fourth and fifth graders of the same demographics. Winning 1st place is Dennis Sohn on his artwork titled “Protect Peacefully”; winning 2nd place is Victoria Reed Schaaf on her artwork titled “Step By Step . . . Drinking and Driving”; and winning 3rd Place is Lauren Michelle Hood on her artwork titled “Liberty Empowering Future Leaders”. All winners in the art division are from St. Peter’s Episcopal School.

Madam Speaker, I ask the United States House of Representatives to join me in thanking the Board of Governors of the Chattanooga Bar Association for their contributions and commitment to the legal profession and to the Chattanooga community. The members of the CBA Board of Governors are Lynda Minks Hood, Executive Director; James M. Haley, IV, President; Cynthia D. Hall, President-elect; The Honorable Barry A. Steelman, Secretary-

Treasurer; Joseph R. White, Immediate Past President; Barry L. Abbott, David Elliott, Ira M. Long, Jr., John T. Rice, The Honorable Jacqueline Schulten, and Christopher T. Varner.

#### RECOGNIZING THE HUNTERS LANE HIGH SCHOOL MUSIC PROGRAM

**HON. JIM COOPER**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 7, 2007*

Mr. COOPER. Madam Speaker, today I rise to pay tribute to the students, teachers and administrators of the music department at Hunters Lane High School in Nashville, Tennessee. They are tonight celebrating a well-deserved designation as a Signature School by the Grammy Foundation and the Gibson Foundation, an honor given to just 22 schools across the country.

Hunters Lane is one of Nashville’s fine public high schools, and in a city known for its music, Hunters Lane’s program lives up to our community’s highest standards. The Warriors boast a marching band, a concert band, a jazz band and a drum line, in addition to a bustling choral music program, all of which perform to great acclaim. Indeed, the students at Hunters Lane are a talented bunch.

I was pleased, Madam Speaker, but not surprised to learn that Hunters Lane was being recognized with a \$5,000 grant from the Grammy Foundation and the Gibson Foundation to benefit the school’s guitar and piano programs. Hunters Lane was selected from over 20,000 schools and 700 applicants. Clearly, their music program is the cream of the crop.

I am particularly proud of Hunters Lane’s commitment to music education. Just two weeks ago in the House of Representatives, we passed a resolution I offered with my colleague Mr. PORTER expressing the sense of Congress that “music education grounded in rigorous instruction is an important component of a well-rounded academic curriculum and should be available to every student in every school.” Music education, the House found, helps students “analyze, solve problems, communicate, and work cooperatively.” Soon I expect the Senate to concur in this matter, and

the importance of school-based music education to youth development will be resolved by the full 110th Congress.

Truly, Hunters Lane High School expresses our community’s commitment to music education, and I hope that this honor only furthers the school’s goals. That is why today I ask my colleagues to join me in saluting the students, teachers and administrators of Hunters Lane, who have worked hard to make their music program one of the best in the country. May this award inspire other public schools across the nation to follow in their footsteps.

#### PAYING TRIBUTE TO THE GIL FAMILY

**HON. JON C. PORTER**

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 7, 2007*

Mr. PORTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Gil family, proprietors of the Casa Don Juan restaurant, who were named the Small Business Association’s Family Owned Small Business of the Year for the State of Nevada.

Over 10 years ago, Maria and Raul Gil moved to Las Vegas from California looking for an opportunity to own and operate a family restaurant. Upon arriving in Las Vegas the Gil’s recognized that there was a lack of Mexican restaurants, and subsequently opened Casa Don Juan. Over the past 10 years, Casa Don Juan has built up its clientele with excellent food and service and now employs over 40 people, including the Gil’s children, Nancy, Denisse and Billy.

Casa Don Juan is located on Main Street in downtown Las Vegas and has greatly benefited from the recent development and revitalization efforts. The Gil’s now plan to expand Casa Don Juan to meet the growing demand from their very satisfied and loyal clientele.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor Raul, Maria, Nancy, Billy and Denisse Gil. Their innovative spirit and hard work are commendable and I wish the Gil family continued success at Casa Don Juan.